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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

Washington, D. C.

SS-198

May 20, 1959

Spring Grains Nearly All Seeded

Spring grain seeding generally made good progress last month and was nearing completion on May 1 in all except the most northern sections. Early May rains were expected to hasten seeding completion and promote early growth, but Crop Reporting Board says that generous rains will be needed during the growing season to assure a favorable outturn.

Seeding was late in parts of the Central Great Plains, as fields dried from the heavy March precipitation. In the Northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi Valley fields were dusty during high winds; but planting continued, as moisture was sufficient in most localities to give hope for germination.

Winter Wheat Crop Down From Last Year But May Top Average by 17 Percent

Prospects for winter wheat declined about one percent during April. Lowered outlook in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Montana more than offset minor gains from a month ago in most Southern States and significant gains in Nebraska and Oklahoma. Production May 1 was estimated at 957 million bushels, 19 percent less than last year but 17 percent more than average.

Indicated yield of 23.5 bushels per acre for harvest is the second highest of record and compares with 28.4 bushels in 1958 and the average of 19.2 bushels.

Acreage of winter wheat remaining for harvest, at 40.7 million acres, is down from last year by nearly a million acres and is about 5 percent less than average.

Rye Condition Down From Year Ago

Rye condition May 1 was reported at 84 percent of normal--8 points below a year earlier and 2 points below average. Of the 7 largest rye producing States, conditions declined during April in the Dakotas and Minnesota but were unchanged or improved in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Washington.

Pasture and Hay Prospects Near Average

Pasture condition for the country as a whole was about average for May 1, but considerably below last year's unusually uniform lush growth.

Hay production prospects for this year are near average or better except in the Northeast where winter damage was heavy and in the northern Plains and upper Mississippi Valley where winter killing was unusually severe. Average or better prospects are found in nearly all States except New England, New York, Minnesota, and the Dakotas.

Near Record Stocks of Hay

Stocks of hay on farms May 1, estimated at 25.9 million tons, are second only to the year-

ago record stocks of 26.4 million tons. Present stocks are 68 percent above average.

Smaller Crops of Spring Potatoes

The late spring potato crop is estimated at 22.1 million hundredweight. This is 10 percent less than last year and 10 percent below the 1949-57 average. Yield per acre, at 161.1 cwt., tops a year ago by 14.0 cwt. and is 27.5 cwt. above the average yield.

The early spring crop in Florida and Texas, at 3,301,000 cwt., is 1,402,000 cwt. below the 1958 crop and about 54,000 cwt. below average. The decline of 342,000 cwt. from the April 1 forecast is accounted for by lower yields per acre in Florida.

Growers of early summer potatoes are expected to harvest 109,300 acres in 1959, 7 percent below the 117,300 acres harvested last year and 15 percent below average.

Spring Vegetable Output Close to Year Ago

Estimated production of spring vegetables, excluding melons, is only 1 percent below 1958.

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average Prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Mar. 15 1959	Apr. 15 1959	Based on data for Apr. 1959
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)	30.11	31.28	38.12
Wheat (bu.)	1.76	1.77	2.37
Rice (100 lb.)	5.04	4.91	5.86
Corn (bu.)	1.06	1.13	1.70
Peanuts (lb.)	10.7	10.6	13.0
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)	58.8	59.1	73.9
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)	4.06	1 3.87	4.96
Wool (lb.)	2 35.1	2 39.2	72.4
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)905	.898	1.29
Cottonseed (ton)	45.40	-	67.30
Flaxseed (bu.)	2.56	2.60	3.98
Hay, baled (ton)	18.80	18.80	25.20
Oats (bu.)590	.602	.840
Potatoes (cwt.)	1.04	1.28	2.32
Rye (bu.)966	.976	1.51
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)	1.76	1.80	2.55
Soybeans (bu.)	2.07	2.10	2.91
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)	3.83	4.58	5.56
Oranges, on tree (box)	2.75	2.72	2.20
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)	2.66	2.82	3.14
Beef cattle (100 lb.)	23.30	24.10	23.20
Calves (100 lb.)	27.90	29.00	25.60
Hogs (100 lb.)	15.40	15.60	21.70
Lambs (100 lb.)	18.90	19.10	25.80
Chickens, all (lb.)	16.8	15.9	27.0
Eggs (dozen)	34.1	28.1	47.5

¹ Preliminary

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

Substantially smaller crops than last year are tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, snap beans, and onions. Sizeable increases over last year are forecast for celery and lettuce.

Forecast for late spring watermelons is one-fourth below last year's record production.

Another Good Southern Peach Crop

Peach production in 9 Southern States is estimated at 14 million bushels. This is 11 percent less than last year, but 51 percent more than average. Except for last year, this is the largest crop since 1947.

Oklahoma is the only State where the 1959 crop is expected to be below average. In Alabama, the bearing acreage is up sharply from last year in the principal commercial areas. Conditions in North Carolina are spotty. Early varieties in this State show promise of good production, but Elbertas (with declining acreage) were reduced by the freezing temperatures of late March. In South Carolina, one section of the Piedmont area

was hit hard by hail and wind on April 28. Sandhills area also had light hail on April 29. . . no extensive damage. In Georgia, prospects for peaches are not as uniformly good as last year. Movement of early varieties from south Georgia is expected to begin about May 25.

More Oranges Than Last Season

Orange production, including tangerines (1958-59 season), is estimated at 128 million boxes or 15 percent more than last season and 3 percent more than average. Remaining unharvested on May 1 were 37 million boxes of oranges, compared with 19.4 million at the same date a year ago and 47.7 million two years ago. An estimated 19.2 million boxes of California Valencias and 16.8 million boxes of Florida Valencias accounted for 98 percent of the unharvested crop.

More Grapefruit

Grapefruit, at 43.4 million boxes, is 9 percent more than last year, but 4 percent less than the average production. Remaining to be harvested on May 1 were 6.3 million boxes, nearly double the 3.2 million unharvested a year earlier.

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1958		1959		
	Apr.	Yr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	Mil. 57.3	Mil. 58.1	Mil. 58.0	Mil. 58.6	Mil. 59.1
Farm employment	7.4	7.5	5.7	6.5	7.4
Family	5.7	5.6	4.6	5.1	5.7
Hired	1.6	2.0	1.1	1.4	1.7
Index numbers (1947-49 = 100)					
Industrial production ²	126	134	145	147	149
Total personal income payments ³	172	174	179	181	-
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	140	149	160	165	166
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	153	158	166	169	170
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	119	119	120	120	-
Farm commodities	98	95	91	91	-
Food, processed	112	111	108	107	-
Consumer price index ⁴	124	124	124	124	-
Food	122	120	118	118	-
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers.....	257	250	243	244	244
Crops	239	224	218	222	223
Food grains	225	208	203	205	205
Feed grains and hay	159	154	154	155	161
Cotton	236	253	239	255	264
Tobacco	474	482	505	505	505
Oil bearing crops.....	234	225	221	223	225
Fruit	262	249	225	218	210
Commercial vegetables.....	312	242	264	284	262
Livestock and products	272	272	265	263	261
Meat animals	339	334	322	327	336
Dairy products	239	254	259	249	239
Poultry and eggs.....	171	167	158	153	135
Prices paid by farmers	274	273	275	276	276
All commodities.....	288	287	288	287	287
Used in living	265	264	267	267	269
Used in production	294	293	297	298	299
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)	567	574	610	610	620
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted...	87	85	82	82	82
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)					

¹ Bureau of the Census

³ Department of Commerce

² Federal Reserve Board.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Mar. 1958	Jan.-Mar. 1959
Dairy Production			
Milk	Bil. lb.	¹ 41.0	¹ 40.9
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	454.9	466.6
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	431.0	423.0
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	361.5	343.9
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	211.2	212.2
Ice cream	Mil. gal.	131.9	142.7
Poultry Production			
Eggs	Billions	¹ 21.0	¹ 22.2
Poultry meat ²	Mil. lb.	994	1,141
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	63.4	66.9
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	102.1	170.4
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	5.4	12.4
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	75.4	108.0
Chicks hatched, total ³	Millions	¹ 935	¹ 1,009
Chicks hatched, broiler ³	Millions	¹ 591	¹ 661
Poults hatched ³ :			
Heavy breeds	Millions	¹ 33.8	¹ 33.9
Light breeds.....	Millions	¹ 4.5	¹ 6.5
Meat Production² (dressed weight)			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	3,156	3,103
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	283	220
Pork	Mil. lb.	2,375	2,790
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	168	202
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	5,982	6,315
Slaughter²			
Cattle	1,000 head	5,808	5,294
Calves.....	1,000 head	2,532	1,960
Hogs	1,000 head	17,920	20,564
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	3,367	4,021

¹ January-April.

³ By commercial hatcheries.

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

Fewer Lemons Than Last Year

Harvest of the California lemon crop had passed the halfway point on May 1 with 7.7 million boxes remaining for harvest. Total crop, at 16.5 million boxes, is 2 percent smaller than last season, but 24 percent above average.

Other California Fruits

Condition of California Bartlett pears, at 85 percent, is 20 points above May 1 last year and 3 points above average for that date. Other varieties of pears, reported at 78 percent, top year ago by 13 points, and about average condition.

California plum crop, at 100,000 tons, is 64 percent larger than last year and 24 percent above average. The set of California prunes varies from light to heavy as the result of irregular bloom. Imperial variety shows a heavy set. Crop has developed rapidly in recent weeks.

California apricots, forecast at 220,000 tons, would be nearly two and one-half times the short 1958 crop, but only 16 percent above average.

Almond condition (California) at 96 percent, is highest of record for May 1 and contrasts with the near-record low of only 33 percent a year ago.

Last Year's Tobacco Output, Revised

Tobacco production in 1958, all types, is now estimated at 1,736 million pounds (revised estimate). This is only 21.6 million pounds or 1.2 percent below the December estimate. Total production in 1957 was 1,668 million pounds.

The 1958 production of flue-cured, at 1,081 million pounds, is 11 percent above the 975 million pounds harvested in 1957 but is 17 percent below the 1947-56 average and is the second smallest production since 1943. Acreage of flue-cured harvested in 1958 was 639,400 acres, lowest since 1932; average yield for flue-cured, 1,691 pounds, 66 pounds above the previous high reached in 1956.

Burley crop in 1958 is now estimated at 466 million pounds and is the smallest crop of burley tobacco since 1943 when 392 million pounds were produced. (For other types, and total production by States, see Crop Production report, issued by AMS May 11.)

Tobacco Crop Worth More than \$1 Billion

The 1958 tobacco crop is valued at 1,033 million dollars. Growers received an average price of 59.5 cents per pound, 3.4 cents above 1957. The 1957 crop was valued at 936 million dollars.

Milk Output About Steady--Lower Per Capita

The 11.2 billion pounds of milk produced on farms during April was nearly the same as a year earlier, but was 5 percent above the 1948-57 average. April production was enough to provide 2.11 pounds of milk per day for every person in the U. S. This was down from a year ago by 2 percent and was 6 percent below the 10-year average for the month.

Production during the first 4 months of this year totals 40.9 billion pounds, compared with 41.0 billion in the same months last year.

Egg Production Higher

The 5,797 million eggs laid in April top the production a year earlier by 5 percent, with all regions showing increases over last year. Total production January through April at 22,222 million was 6 percent above the same period last year.

The number of layers on May 1 totaled 298,337,000, compared with 290,188,000 a year earlier--an increase of 3 percent.

Surplus Food Donations Exceed 2 1/4 Billion Pounds

Donations of USDA surplus foods totaling 2,252,500,000 pounds were distributed during the first 9 months of the current fiscal year. These surplus foods were for use in school lunch programs and charitable institutions in this country, and by needy persons in this country and abroad. This total is in addition to foods purchased specifically by the Department for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings by States, March 1959¹

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	9,374	7,971	17,345
New Hampshire.....	4,174	1,003	5,177
Vermont.....	8,744	1,717	10,461
Massachusetts.....	9,022	3,954	12,976
Rhode Island.....	1,188	407	1,595
Connecticut.....	8,799	5,696	14,495
New York.....	52,126	17,037	69,163
New Jersey.....	15,450	5,682	21,132
Pennsylvania.....	52,460	18,258	70,718
Ohio.....	53,181	20,325	73,506
Indiana.....	60,050	23,694	83,744
Illinois.....	103,975	82,652	186,627
Michigan.....	33,434	16,648	50,082
Wisconsin.....	87,014	8,118	95,132
Minnesota.....	92,059	32,863	124,922
Iowa.....	157,105	49,752	206,857
Missouri.....	58,432	13,014	71,446
North Dakota.....	15,297	11,979	27,276
South Dakota.....	37,100	8,110	45,210
Nebraska.....	57,856	23,705	81,561
Kansas.....	46,997	24,334	71,331
Delaware.....	6,376	1,216	7,592
Maryland.....	14,454	3,122	17,576
Virginia.....	18,426	7,156	25,582
West Virginia.....	5,912	1,507	7,419
North Carolina.....	23,472	11,173	34,645
South Carolina.....	8,155	5,115	13,270
Georgia.....	32,596	9,711	42,307
Florida.....	15,791	56,012	71,803
Kentucky.....	21,897	3,749	25,646
Tennessee.....	21,458	4,981	26,439
Alabama.....	22,486	5,749	28,235
Mississippi.....	20,140	6,640	26,780
Arkansas.....	17,404	9,468	26,872
Louisiana.....	12,556	4,455	17,011
Oklahoma.....	23,801	6,320	30,121
Texas.....	71,724	23,396	95,120
Montana.....	12,602	9,507	22,109
Idaho.....	15,459	12,686	28,145
Wyoming.....	5,288	1,331	6,619
Colorado.....	28,994	9,492	38,486
New Mexico.....	6,664	4,945	11,609
Arizona.....	14,405	16,506	30,911
Utah.....	9,832	1,242	11,074
Nevada.....	4,534	487	5,021
Washington.....	17,478	21,353	38,831
Oregon.....	18,213	5,062	23,275
California.....	71,844	65,103	136,947
United States.....	1,505,798	684,403	2,190,201

¹All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

	March 1959	April 1959 ²
CASH RECEIPTS		
Total marketings and CCC loans ³	Mil. dol. 2,190	Mil. dol. 2,200
Livestock and products	1,506	1,600
Meat animals	850	
Dairy products.....	388	
Poultry and eggs	248	
Other	20	
Crops	684	600
Food grains.....	66	
Feed crops	236	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	41	
Oil-bearing crops.....	62	
Tobacco	9	
Vegetables	90	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	76	
Other	104	
Government payments.....	26	
Grand total	2,216	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:		
	1947-49 = 100	
All commodities	100	95
Livestock and products.....	123	127
Crops	70	52

¹ For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

² Preliminary.

³ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share
1958 average.....	\$1,065	\$427	\$638	40%
1958 March.....	1,075	456	619	42%
1959 February.....	1,042	404	638	39%
1959 March.....	1,036	408	628	39%

¹ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

Less Maple Sirup Than Last Year

Maple sirup, at 1,196,000 gallons, is down from last year's production by 21 percent and 27 percent below average.

Less Beef, More Pork and Lamb

Production of red meat (commercial slaughter) in the first three months of 1959 totaled 6,315 million pounds--up 6 percent from that produced in the same period last year. Of the January - March volume, 3,103 million pounds were beef, down 2 percent from last year; 220 million pounds were veal, down 22 percent; 2,790 million pounds were pork, up 17 percent; and 202 million pounds were mutton and lamb, up 20 percent from the same period in 1958.

More Hogs Slaughtered, Fewer Cattle and Calves

Number of cattle slaughtered during January, February, and March was 9 percent below the comparable period last year. Number of calves slaughtered was down 23 percent. Hog slaughter was up 15 percent. And sheep and lamb slaughter was up 19 percent.

19 Percent More Poultry Meat

Poultry meat output for March totaled 393 million pounds, ready-to-cook basis. This was 19 percent higher than a year earlier.

Farm Employment Up Seasonally

Total number of persons at work on farms in late April, at 7,378,000, was up seasonally from the 6,493,000 total from a month earlier but only slightly higher than in April last year. Total includes 5,716,000 farm family workers and 1,662,000 hired. The number hired was up about 2 percent from a year earlier.

AMS Reports Described in Booklet

"Periodic Reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service" (AMS-48, revised) lists the crop and livestock, market news, situation and other reports issued regularly. Release dates are given for scheduled reports. Copies of AMS-48, revised, are available from the Marketing Information Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.